

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 160631Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6198

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, NZ, AS

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI'S TRAVELS

REF: BANGKOK 13899

1. PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, AUG 10-15 (REFTEL), IS BEGINNING TO SHAPE UP. DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TELLS US THAT CHATCHAI WILL SPEND ABOUT ONE DAY (AUG 11) IN CANBERRA, WITH CALLS BEING ARRANGED ON PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE CREAN, AND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE MORRISON. CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE WILL BE SET UP ON AUG 15 IN PERTH, ON CHATCHAI'S RETURN TRIP TO THAILAND. DFA TELLS US THAT CHATCHAI WANTS TO PUT IN A FEW DAYS OF LEAVE AND RECREATION, INCLUDING SKIING IN SNOWY MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF CANBERRA.

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2. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR JOHNSON HAS RECENTLY VISITED CANBERRA

TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION ASEAN COUNTRIES. JOHNSON IS REPORTEDLY REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THAI GOVERNMENT UNDER PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT AND ANY CONCEIVABLE SUCCESSOR WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO NEW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FORCES THAT EMERGED FOLLOWING OVERTHROW OF THANOM GOVERNMENT IN 1973. HE FEELS THAT THERE IS NO TURNING BACK TO POLICIES OF PAST IN EITHER INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL FIELD. HE IS MORE GUARDED IN HIS JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER THAIS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN ACCOMMODATING TO A UNITED VIET-NAM UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL OR IN SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGING LONG-STANDING THAI ATTITUDES OF CULTURAL AND POLITICAL SUPERIORITY TOWARDS LAOS AND CAMBODIA. HE SEES THE RECENT NORMALIZATION OF THAI RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AS A FORM OF INSURANCE AGAINST POSSIBLE PRESSURES FROM VIET-NAM. HE NOTES THAT THAIS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CONCLUDED DEFINITELY WHETHER THEY WISH TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SEATO. AMBASSADOR JOHNSON BELIEVES THAT ASEAN, AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, WILL NOT RPT NOT BE AN ADEQUATE VEHICLE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPANDED REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

3. AUSTRALIANS SEE CONSIDERABLE ROLE FOR THEMSELVES IN PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND PARTICULARLY UNIVERSITY TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA TO THAILAND. AMBASSADOR JOHNSON ASSESSES AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN THAILAND AS LARGELY CENTERING ON REGIONAL STABILITY AND NOTES THAT AUSTRALIA HAS FEW IMMEDIATE OR IMMUTABLE INTERESTS IN THAILAND.
GREEN

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